

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the original numbered paragraphs with the following amended paragraphs.

[006] ~~Discloses~~Disclosed is a pneumatic tire having a tread with shoulders, a belt structure located below the tread, and a carcass with two sidewalls, two inextensible annular beads, and a radial ply structure. The shoulders of the tire have a continuous curving radially outer profile so that the shoulders transition smoothly from the tread profile to the tire sidewalls; ideally, the locus of the radii defining the shoulder are located on the inner side of the tire. This is distinct from a shoulder have a square shoulder, where the tread comes to an abrupt end hard edge before transitioning into the upper sidewall of the tire. The inventive tire further has a belt structure formed of an annular layer of parallel cords directly adjacent to the radial ply structure, the annular layer having a pair of opposing annular edges and a continuous radius curve profile. Located radially inward of the axial edges of the annular layer of the belt structure, and directly adjacent along the axial edges of the annular layer, is an annular reinforcing strip layer. The strip has a width, defined between terminal ends thereof, of not greater than 30mm and one terminal end of the strip layer extends axially outward of the annular layer edges by a distance of not more than 10 mm.

[0040] Referring now to the FIGURE, there is shown in cross sectional view a segment of a molded self-supporting radial ply tire 10 incorporating an aspect of the present invention. The non-illustrated half of the tire 10 is symmetrical to that illustrated. The carcass has at least one radial ply layer forming the primary reinforcing structure to the tire. In the illustrated tire, the carcass has an outer radial ply layer 12, an inner radial ply layer 14, together comprising a radial ply structure. The end of the inner radial ply layer 14 is wrapped about an inextensible annular bead 16 with the terminal ends of the ply layer being radially inward and axially outward of the belt structure 24. To space the turn-up ply 18 of the inner radial ply layer 14 from the outer radial ply layer 12, an apex 20 may be placed radially outward of the annular bead 16. Radially inward of the ply layers 12, 14, in each sidewall is a sidewall wedge insert 22. The sidewall wedge insert 22 provides the tire with run-flat, self-supporting capabilities. Such items are known in the art and will not be discussed at length herein. Though FIG. 1 shows a self-supporting run-flat tire design, it is also contemplated by the inventors to incorporate the present invention in non self-supporting

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type tires or other type of run-flat tires. The tire structure would be as discussed above and below, sans the wedge insert 22.